Evaluating the effects of continuous median barriers on freeways speeds and emergency response service times

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Background:

- Funded by NCDOT
- Focus on limited access roads
- Initiated by Kevin Lacy when he was working for HSRC. Mr. Lacy now works for NCDOT
- The project started in July 2001. I have been working on this effort since September 2002
- Speed data has been collected at 51 sites consisting of four types of medians, i.e., no barrier but traversable medians, no barrier and non-traversable medians, continuous barrier with no crossovers, and continuous barrier with crossovers
- Conducted a survey of neighboring states regarding their policies on median crossovers

Emergency Response:

- The objective is to try to *quantify* the effect of continuous median barriers and median crossovers on emergency response times
- A database called PreMIS (http://www.premis.net/). This system does record response time data, but does not provide information about the routes followed by the emergency vehicles / ambulance.
- Ouestions:
 - o Is it possible to get data on: (i) response time, and (ii) routes traveled, before and after continuous median barriers were introduced? If this information is available, it can be compared with situations that were not affected by median barriers, or locations with median crossovers.
 - o If this information is available, how can I get it?

If you can provide input, please contact Dr. Raghavan Srinivasan (Srini) at (919) 962 7418; or srini@unc.edu